

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2349**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Fong**

February 19, 2010

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An act to amend Section 14206 of, and to add Section 14021 to, the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to workforce development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2349, as introduced, Fong. Workforce development: Youth at Work Program.

The federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides for workforce investment activities, including activities in which states may participate. Existing law establishes the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB), and specifies that the CWIB is responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system.

This bill would require the CWIB, in collaboration with the local workforce investment boards, to establish the California Youth at Work Program for the purpose of providing summer job training and work experience opportunities for youth in the state, in accordance with prescribed requirements.

Existing law contains various programs for job training and employment investment, including work incentive programs, as specified, and a local workforce investment board to perform various duties related to the implementation and coordination of local workforce investment activities, including, among other things, the award of grants and contracts to eligible providers of youth activities on a competitive basis, consistent with the federal law.

This bill would specify that a local board is to award grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth activities, in a manner consistent with other funding sources and to identify eligible providers in a manner consistent with federal law.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 14021 is added to the Unemployment  
2 Insurance Code, to read:

3 14021. (a) The California Workforce Investment Board, in  
4 collaboration with local workforce investment boards, shall  
5 establish the California Youth at Work Program, for the purpose  
6 of providing summer job training and work experience  
7 opportunities for youth in the state. The program shall be  
8 established in accordance with the following requirements:

9 (1) The program shall include work experience and academic  
10 enrichment components.

11 (2) Eligible youth who participate in the program shall be  
12 between 14 and 24 years of age.

13 (3) The program shall primarily focus on providing summer job  
14 training and work experience opportunities for youth. For purposes  
15 of this section, the period of “summer” shall be from May 1  
16 through September 30 of each year. However, the program’s start  
17 and end dates may vary within this time period.

18 (4) The following youth shall be deemed automatically eligible  
19 for the California Youth at Work Program: low-income youth and  
20 certain youth populations facing barriers to employment, including,  
21 but not limited to, youth in foster care, youth who have aged out  
22 of foster care, youth whose families are enrolled in the CalWORKs  
23 program (Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3  
24 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code), youth who  
25 are enrolled in the CalWORKs program, homeless youth, youth  
26 with disabilities, youth who are under the care of the court system,  
27 youth who participate in the National School Lunch Program,  
28 youth with one parent or guardian who is in a dislocated worker,  
29 or a recipient of unemployment compensation benefits, and youth  
30 with additional barriers. Military veterans and their spouses who

1 are under 24 years of age shall be given priority for services under  
2 the program.

3 (5) The program shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate,  
4 incorporate work-based learning strategies, work experience, and  
5 other activities that involve exposing youth to industrial job sector  
6 opportunities that are key to the economic region. Local workforce  
7 investment boards may incorporate secondary and postsecondary  
8 education as deemed appropriate.

9 (6) Wages or stipends, or both, may be provided to youth in a  
10 classroom-based component of a summer employment opportunity.

11 (7) Minors under 18 years of age who are enrolled in the  
12 program shall be paid at least the minimum wage and applicable  
13 overtime rates established by the state's Industrial Welfare  
14 Commission (IWC).

15 (8) High school graduates or those persons holding an equivalent  
16 degree shall be paid at the same levels as the local workforce  
17 investment area's workforce experience policy for adults and  
18 dislocated workers, when those individuals perform the same  
19 quantity, quality, and classification of work.

20 (b) The board, in consultation with local workforce investment  
21 boards, shall request, if required, any necessary waivers from the  
22 United States Department of Labor, to ensure effective and efficient  
23 implementation of the program set forth in this section.

24 (c) The program established by this section shall only be  
25 implemented if the Director of Finance determines that there are  
26 sufficient federal or state funds made available to the state for  
27 expenditure for the program.

28 (9) The California Youth at Work Program shall incorporate  
29 career pathways or career ladders as part of the summer youth  
30 program, and should be coordinated with existing employment  
31 training programs and economic development programs, including,  
32 but not limited to, programs funded under the Workforce  
33 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 2801 et seq.), or other  
34 federally funded workforce investment program, the California  
35 Community Colleges, the regional occupational programs and  
36 regional occupation centers, vocational education programs, joint  
37 labor-management training programs, and preapprenticeship or  
38 registered apprenticeship programs authorized by the Department  
39 of Industrial Relations Division of Apprenticeship Standards.

1 SEC. 2. Section 14206 of the Unemployment Insurance Code  
2 is amended to read:

3 14206. It shall be the duty of the local board to do all of the  
4 following:

5 (a) Coordinate workforce investment activities in the local area  
6 with economic development strategies.

7 (b) Promote participation of private sector employers in the  
8 local workforce investment system.

9 (c) Develop and submit a local workforce investment plan to  
10 the Governor.

11 (d) Select one-stop operators, with the agreement of the local  
12 chief elected official, annually review their operations, and  
13 terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

14 (e) Award grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth  
15 activities in the local area on a competitive basis, consistent with  
16 the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, *or other funding sources*,  
17 based upon the recommendations of the youth council.

18 (f) Identify, consistent with the Workforce Investment Act of  
19 1998, *or other federal statutes*, eligible providers of training  
20 services.

21 (g) Identify eligible providers of intensive services and, when  
22 the one-stop operator does not provide intensive services to the  
23 local area, award contracts to those providers.

24 (h) Develop local policy on the amount and duration of  
25 individual training accounts based upon the market rate for local  
26 training programs.

27 (i) Conduct program oversight over workforce investment  
28 activities in the local area.

29 (j) Negotiate with the local chief elected official in the local  
30 area and the Governor on local performance measures for the local  
31 area.

32 (k) Assist in the development of a statewide employment  
33 statistics system, which shall be developed in conjunction with  
34 and shall utilize to the fullest extent possible, the Employment  
35 Development Department's labor market information system.

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